

# GREAT MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Great Milton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

Present: Mr. Ken Rogers (Chairman), Mr. Stephen Harrod (Vice Chairman),  
Mr. Phil Ashworth, Mr. Ian Bradley, Mr. Doug Colley, Mrs. Christine  
Pepperell

In Attendance: Joanna Botha (Clerk)  
1 member of the public

## 01/10 Apologies for Absence

Pat Cox (Bulletin Reporter)  
David Turner (County Councillor)  
John Nowell-Smith (District Councillor)  
Mr. Peter Fewell

## 02/10 Register of Interests for this Meeting

None

## 03/10 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record. This was proposed by Stephen Harrod (SH), seconded by Doug Colley (DC) and agreed upon unanimously.

## 04/10 Matters to Report

The Clerk reported that she is waiting to hear from Traffic Engineer Peter Ronald about a site meeting for the Speed Survey, Heyfordian had asked for evidence of the second incidence of damage to the Village Green, she is looking into the maintenance of the invasive Himalayan Balsam and will come back to the PC when any decisions are required, she had written to Le Manoir to thank them for their positive response to the PC's suggestion of issuing fluorescent vests to staff, had written to those who took part in the Grass Cutting tender and had applied to SODC for a precept of £12,980.

Phil Ashworth will obtain a witness statement for Heyfordian and provide a location map for the Himalayan Balsam. He reported that he had spoken with the Donnellys about the sign for the Village Shop and while they very much appreciate the PC's support, they feel that if a grant is not forthcoming, they will pay for the sign themselves as they don't feel it should come from the precept.

PA

## 05/10 Correspondence and Public Discussion

South & Vale Carers Centre and Sue Ryder Care had both written to thank the PC for recent donations.

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## 06/10 Planning Applications

### A South Oxfordshire District Council is investigating an alleged breach of planning control and will be advising the PC of its decision in due course:

Alleged Breach: Without planning permission the change of use of agricultural land for the screening of earth spoil.

Location: Land at Views Farm, Windmill Hill, Great Milton, Oxford.

### B Oxfordshire County Council's Planning and Regulation Committee considered the following application at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010:

Great Milton C of E Primary School

County Council reference R3.0188/09

District Council reference P09/W0843/CC

Demolition of detached temporary classroom and brick built store and erection of detached single storey children's centre, an extension to provide a replacement classroom, reading room extension and replacement store extension, plus associated works.

Stephen Harrod (SH) reported that this item had in fact been deferred from the Planning and Regulation Committee Agenda following a pre-meeting briefing for the Chair, during which it was noted that the fact that this application is on Green Belt Land had been omitted from the paperwork. Councillors agreed to hold off any action until further information is forthcoming from the Planning and Regulation Committee, although a letter had already been written to the Sustainable Communities Directorate notifying them that GMPC intends to request that the Secretary of State calls in the Planning Application.

### C Great Milton Parish Council discussed the forthcoming Enforcement Appeal Hearing regarding Earth Bunds at The Triangle, Wheatley at this meeting:

The Appellants requested at the meeting that GMPC write to Wheatley Parish Council to encourage them to support the Appeal and that one Councillor attend the Appeal Hearing on January 19<sup>th</sup> to demonstrate its support. It was resolved that the Clerk would write to Wheatley and that Ken Rogers (KR) would attend the Appeal Hearing.

JB/KR

## 07/10 Footpath between Fullers Field and Recreation Ground

### A Ian Bradley (IB) reported that the fruit tree requested to be included in the proposed work is in fact part of the hedge, so it makes no difference to the cost. He had consulted the locals affected and they are delighted with the plan to take the height of the hedge down to one metre meaning minimal maintenance in the future.

### B It was resolved to go ahead with the cheaper of the two proposals of £500 plus VAT, to trim the hedge and chip the waste back into the ground as this is in line with good agricultural practice. This estimate is £100 higher than the budget for

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Recreation Ground Maintenance, however there was an under spend of £100 the previous year. This was proposed by IB, seconded by PA and agreed upon unanimously. The Clerk will write to SOHA to formally request the work.

JB

## 08/10 **Parish Plan**

A Councillors edited and approved the literature for promoting the launch of the Parish Plan. A list of invitees was discussed and added to. Invitees were allocated to individual Councillors so that invitations could be delivered in person. IB agreed to print out leaflets to put in the shop and Christine Pepperell (CP) would do the same throughout Milton Common. The Clerk would print out and put up posters.

ALL

It was agreed that the Clerk would apply for an initial grant from Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council for the funds required for the launch event. These were estimated to be:

£50 for wine

£20 for soft drinks

£15 for snacks

£20 hall hire

£15 for promotion on the web site

£40 for printing of posters and leaflets

JB

## 09/10 **Recreation Ground Access way and Parking on adjacent Village Green**

A Councillors discussed how to assign action to move forward the resurfacing and whether it was necessary to issue a notice to the adjacent residents reminding them that it is an offence to park on the Village Green and notifying them that they will need to clear the area so that the Green may be made good in advance of any work. It was resolved that SH would pass on previous quotes to the Clerk so that she could obtain new quotes for a gravel surface. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the neighbours as discussed.

SH/JB

## 10/10 **Tree for Thelma Blake**

A It was agreed to defer this item.

## 11/10 **Posts and Boulders**

A Councillors discussed the suggestion that these might be a hazard to drivers and should be painted white. It was resolved not to take any action.

## 12/10 **Unauthorised Coach Parking**

A Councillors discussed whether to take any action with regard to the unauthorised parking of a coach on the grass verge on Thame Road. It was resolved that in the event of a reoccurrence the PC will report them to the Traffic Commissioner South West region but that no action would be taken at this point.

## 13/10 **Signpost Encouraging Traffic to Bypass the Village**

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A A proposal in a letter to The Bulletin that a traffic sign could encourage drivers to bypass the village instead of using it as a 'cut through' by signposting towards alternative routes was discussed. It was resolved to take no action as a letter had been published in the following Bulletin arguing that alternative routes were already well used.

## 14/10 Financial Resolutions

A The following payments were authorised, proposed by PA, seconded by DC and agreed upon unanimously:

- Manny Stone. Editorial costs (Jan) - £50
- Joanna Botha. Clerk's salary (Dec) - £307.33
- Thames Water Utilities. Allotments - £9.94
- Jonathan Dudley. Bulletin Production (Dec) - £239.10
- Mike Henson Presentations. Village Page Update. £17.25

B Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated the quarterly accounts and bank reconciliation to Councillors. Councillors reviewed the accounts and confirmed that the figures appeared concurrent with being nine months into the financial year. It was proposed by SH that the accounts be approved. This was seconded by PA and agreed upon unanimously.

## 15/10 Donations

A A donation request from the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind was discussed and it was resolved to donate £30.

B A donation request from the Oxfordshire Woodland Project was discussed and it was agreed to donate £30.

C A donation request from Abbey Netball Club towards the development of six floodlit netball courts at a site at Court Place Farm, Marston for the use of players across Oxfordshire was discussed but it was resolved not to make a donation as Councillors felt the benefit was too remote from Great Milton Parish.

JB

## 16/10 Authorisation for Clerk's Expenditure

A The proposal to give the Clerk limited power to initiate expenditure on village maintenance and web site maintenance was discussed. It was resolved that the Clerk should have the power to initiate work up to £50 on parish matters without prior agreement. This was proposed by SH, seconded by DC and agreed upon unanimously.

PA proposed that he and the Clerk speak with the web company about the possibility of GMPC updating some of the site content themselves in order to keep the site more up to date without incurring charges. It was agreed that PA and the Clerk would investigate and report back to the PC.

PA/JB

## 17/10 Any Other Business

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KR reported that Geoffrey Claydon was stepping down from distributing the Bulletin in Church Road having done so for 40 years. The Clerk will put a note of thanks in The Bulletin and a request for a volunteer to take on this round. It was agreed that KR would ask Sally Lasson.

JB/KR

The Clerk asked whether she had the PC's approval to request a dedicated space in the Pavilion for Parish Council files as part of the forthcoming developments to the building. Councillors supported this suggestion.

Potential improvements to The Bulletin were discussed and it was agreed to put this on the Agenda for a future meeting and to invite Bulletin Editor Manuel Stone and Producer Jonathan Dudley.

JB

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The next Great Milton Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 7.30pm** in the Pavilion.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_